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PATENT APPLICATION

2157
#8
RUB
2-23-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KEIICHI UNO, et al.

Application No.: 09/613,533

Filed: July 10, 2000

For: DATA REPRODUCTION
SYSTEM AND METHOD

Examiner: S. Halim

Group Art Unit: 2157

February 13, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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FEB 19 2004

Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated January 26, 2004,

Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the Group I claims, namely Claims 1 to 27, 34 to 73, 88 to 127 and 142 to 158. The Restriction Requirement is, however, traversed.

Traversal is on the ground that there would not be an undue burden in examining two groups of claims in a single application. In particular, MPEP § 808.02 makes clear that in order to require restriction between independent or distinct inventions, reasons for insisting upon a restriction requirement, such as undue burden, must also be

shown. In the present instance, it is not believed that there would be undue burden in examining two groups of claims in a single application, since the two groups of claims are not so different as would require a burden on the Examiner that is significantly beyond that of the normal burdens of examination.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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